

Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 DHA-02 AF-10 EA-07 NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4865

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, ELAB, PINT, IT

SUBJECT: ICFTU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN ROME

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. SUMMARY. THE ICFTU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MET MAY 18-20 AT ROME'S HOLIDAY INN. IT ELECTED CISL ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL LUIGI MACARIO AS ICFTU VICE PRESIDENT IN PLACE OF FORMER CISL SECRETARY GENERAL BRUNO STORTI. IT DECIDED THAT ICFTU WILL ELABORATE A NEW CHARTER OF POLICY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, STRESSING DEFENSE OF EMPLOYMENT AND WORKERS'S PURCHASING POWER WHILE BUILDING A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER. IT CALLED FOR MORE ACTIVE UNION PARTICIPATION IN MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATION(MCN) INVESTMENT DECISION-MAKING TO PREVENT RELOCATION HARMFUL TO EMPLOYMENT AND TRADE UNIONS, CALLED UPON AFFILIATES TO PRESS THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO INSTITUTE INTER-NATIONAL CONTROLS ON MNC'S SPOKE OF COOPERATION WITH AFL-CIO IN DEALING WITH MNCS AND CALLED FOR TRADE UNION

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INVOLVEMENT IN MNC NEGOTIATIONS WITH EAST EUROPE WHICH THREATEN TO TRANSFER JOBS THERE (E.G., FIAT). IT ALSO RESOLVED TO ACT IN DEFENSE OF HUMAN AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS WHERE THEY ARE THREATENED, SINGLING OUT LATIN AMERICA, SOUTH AFRICA AND EASTERN EUROPE. IT ALSO RESOLVED TO JOIN THE AFL-CIO IN BOYCOTTING J.P. STEVENS PRODUCTS.

END SUMMARY.

2. ICFTU SECGEN KERSTEN, MACARIO AND UIL CENTRAL COMMITTEE PRESIDENT FRANCO SIMONCINI (ALSO VICE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND LABOR COUNCIL NOW HEADED BY STORTI) ANNOUNCED THESE DECISIONS IN A PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 20. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, KERSTEN SAID RELATIONS ARE GOOD WITH THE CHRISTIAN-ORIENTED WORLD CONFEDERATION OF L CONFEDERATION (ETUC) AND "ONLY TECHNICAL" WITH THE COMMUNIST WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (WFTU), AND SAID THE ICFTU IS SEEKING A RAPPROACHMENT WITH THE AFL-CIO. HE REFUSED TO COMMENT ON THE POSSIBILITY OF COMMUNIST ENTRY INTO THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, SPEAKING IN FAVOR OF WORKER'S PARTICIPATION AND INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY, KERSTEN EMPHASIZED COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, WITH DUE RESPECT TO OTHER MECHANISMS.

3. MACARIO STRESSED EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS OF INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES LACKING RAW MATERIALS AND RESOURCES, PRAISED THE LONDON HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEED FOR A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER AND EMPHASIZED DEMOCRATIC AND TRADE UNION LIBERTIES, WELCOMING PROGRESS IN SOUTHERN EUROPE AND CRITICIZING OPPRESSION IN LATIN AMERICA AND SOUTH AFRICA AND REPRESSION OF DISSIDENZS IN EASTERN EUROPE. SPEAKING OF ITALY, HE DEFENDED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CGIL-CISL-UIL FEDERATION (CCU), SAYING CISL WAS DETERMINED TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE WITH THE CGIL, SEEKING MOST UNION UNITY POSSIBLE ON BASIS OF FUNDAMENTAL AUTHENTIC TRADE UNION PRINCIPLES: AUTONOMY, DEMOCRACY AND PLURALISM. HE SAID CGIL HAD ESTABLISHED CONTACT WITH ICFTU AT RECEPTION GIVEN FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ICFTU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BY PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI. HE SAID CISL IS AND WILL REMAIN A MEMBER OF FREE LABOR'S FAMILY, WITHOUT DOUBTS OR RESERVATIONS. HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT TRADE UNITY (PRESUMABLY ITALIAN) WOULD PRESENT NO PROBLEMS BUT THAT ACCOUNTS WOULD HAVE TO BE SETTLED (PRESUMABLY BY THE CGIL) WITH THE ICFTU WHICH REPRESENTS THE UNIONS OF THE WESTERN WORLD. SIMONCINI REPORTEDLY EMPHASIZED THAT UIL AND CISL HAVE CHOSEN THE WEST AND STAND FIRM ON THAT CHOICE.

4. VENEZUELAN TRADE UNION LEADER AUGUSTO MALAVE VILLALBA DIED MAY 23 IN ROME, AFTER SUFFERING A STROKE WHILE IN ROME FOR THE MEETING. END UNCLASSIFIED

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5. UIL INTERNATIONAL OFFICE CHIEF FRANCESCO DRAGO COMMENTED LATER TO EMBASSY LABOR OFFICER THAT CRITICISM OF REPRESSION IN EAST EUROPE WAS UNFORTUNATELY MUCH

MORE RESTRAINED THAN THAT OF OPPRESSION IN AFRICA
AND LATIN AMERICA. HE SAID LATIN AMERICA WAS A MAJOR
FOCUS OF THE MEETING AND THAT THERE IS GENERAL SATISFAC-
TION WITH THE NEW ORIT LEADERSHIP AND STRENGTHENED
ICFTU-ORIT TIES. HE SAID MACARIO, ESPECIALLY, CONCENTRATED
ON LATIN AMERICA AND IS ARRANGING A TOUR THERE IN
CONNECTION WITH THE MEXICANS, ARGENTINES AND VENEZUELANES.
HE NOTED THAT CISL HAS CONTACT WITH CLAT AS WELL AS ORIT.
HE CONFIRMED THAT CGIL REPRESENTATIVES HAD BEEN AT
ANDREOTTI'S RECEPTION AND HAD CONTACT WITH ICFTU LEADER-
SHIP, BUT SAID KERSTEN HAD OF COURSE MET CGIL'S BONACCINI
AND LAMA BEFORE IN GENVA. DRAGO SAID UIL AND CISL
ELEMENTS HAD SCOTCHED PROPOSALS TO HAVE EITHER ROME'S
COMMUNIST MAYOR OR THE CGIL-CISL-UIL FEDERATION HOST THE
RECEPTION, AND ARE OPPOSING ANY INCREASED ICFTU RECOGNITION
FOR OR RAPPROCHMENT WITH THE CGIL. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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To: STATE
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